

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 H-01
 INR-10 PM-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /070 W
 -----022446 221938Z /72S

O 221815Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1451

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3510

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: PRETORIA FIVE MEETING WITH FOURIE, JUNE 22

REF: PRETORIA 3483

FOLLOWING IS AGREED REPORT OF THE PRETORIA FIVE ON
THEIR MEETING THIS AFTERNOON JUNE 22 WITH FOURIE:

1. THE PRETORIA FIVE MET WITH BRAND FOURIE FOR ABOUT 50
MINUTES AT 4:30 PM ON 22 JUNE IN THE ABSENCE OF FOREIGN
MINISTER BOTHA WHO WILL BE AWAY UNTIL SATURDAY. AFTER
HANDING OVER TO HIM THE LATTER FROM THE FIVE FOREIGN
MINISTERS, WE READ THE TALKING POINTS AS AMENDED BY THE NEW
YORK CONTACT GROUP. HE ASKED HIS SECRETARY TO TAKE A
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VERBATIM RECORD AND PROMISED THAT HE WOULD CONVEY THE
POINTS THAT WE MADE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND TO THE
PRIME MINISTER.

2. FOURIE THEN ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION ON A NUMBER OF
POINTS, PLACING GREATEST EMPHASIS ON THE QUESTION OF
WALVIS BAY. HE FIRST ASKED IF WE COULD DEFINE THE

SECOND SENTENCE OF THE SECOND PARAGRAPH OF OUR PRESENTATION AND WE RESPONDED USING THE CONTINGENCY LANGUAGE WHICH HAD BEEN PROVIDED. HIS REACTION TO THIS WAS THAT IT GOES MATERIALLY FURTHER THAN WHAT WE HAD SAID BEFORE. HE DESCRIBED THIS AS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DESCRIBED, OFF THE RECORD, AS "SOME PECULIAR RUMBLINGS REACHING US AS TO WHAT IS BEING COOKED UP." HE THEN REFERRED TO THE FORMULATION ON WALVIS BAY CONTAINED IN THE CLARIFICATIONS PRESENTED TO HIM ON 16 FEBRUARY (PARA 3(U), USUN 528; PARA 5, CAPE TOWN 305; PARA 5 & 6, CAPE TOWN 315) AND NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN ASSUMPTION ON THE PART OF THE SAG THAT THE WESTERN POSITION ON WALVIS BAY WOULD BE AS GIVEN TO THE SAG IN WRITING BY THE FIVE ON THAT OCCASION. HE DESCRIBED IT AS A VERY IMPORTANT PIECE OF PAPER IN PURSUADING THE SAG (AND PARTICULARLY THE PRIME MINISTER) TO ACCEPT THE FIVE'S PROPOSAL.

3. NOTING OUR EMPHASIS ON ACTIONS WHICH HINDERED OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN SWAPO AND FRONTLINE ACCEPTANCE OF THE NAIMIBIA PROPOSAL, FOURIE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE FIVE SHOULD TAKE COGNISANCE OF THINGS THAT HAD HAPPENED ON THE OTHER SIDE WHICH CREATED DIFFICULTIES FOR THE SAG. HE CITED IN PARTICULAR THE RECENT BOMBING OF A TRAIN CARRYING A NUMBER OF SCHOOL CHILDREN BETWEEN WALVIS BAY AND WINDHOEK WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN DONE BY NO OTHER THAN SWAPO. HE CLAIMED THAT THE FIVE WERE ALWAYS RELUCTANT

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TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST SWAPO'S ACTIONS BUT WERE ALWAYS READY TO CRITICISE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

4. TURNING TO THE MAIN ELEMENT IN OUR PRESENTATION, FOURIE SAID THAT WHEN THE PROPOSALS WERE ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED THE SAG WAS TOLD THAT WHETHER SOUTH AFRICA OR SWAPO ACCEPTED THEM OR NOT THE PROPOSALS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED (I.E. BY SUBMISSION TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL). ACCORDINGLY, HE WONDERED WHY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ASKED TO MAKE A FURTHER GESTURE TO CLOSE THE SO-CALLED GAP. HE THEN ASKED WHETHER, IF THE SAG WERE TO MAKE THE GESTURE AND THAT ACTION STILL DID NOT SECURE SWAPO AND FRONTLINE AGREEMENT, THE WESTERN FIVE WOULD STILL GO AHEAD IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. WE REPLIED THAT WE HAD BEEN PUTTING TREMENDOUS PRESSURE ON THE FRONTLINE AND SWAPO TO ACCEPT THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL AND WE BELIEVED THAT THE LUANDA MEETING HAD BROUGHT EXTREME PRESSURES TO BEAR ON SWAPO TO REACH AGREEMENT. WHILE WE COULD NOT PREDICT OUR GOVERNMENTS' ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION, SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT ACTION ON THE LINES WE ARE NOW SUGGESTING WOULD BE OF GREAT HELP IN GETTING THE KIND OF AGREEMENT THAT WE ALL DESIRED.

5. BEFORE CONCLUDING THE MEETING, FOURIE ASKED HOW URGENT IT WAS TO HAVE A REPLY. WE STRESSED THAT A REPLY WAS NEEDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE FACT THAT THE ELECTORAL MACHINERY HAD ALREADY BEEN SET IN MOTION. FOURIE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GET US AN ANSWER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER. IT WOULD OF COURSE BE NECESSARY TO CONSULT THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE ALSO.

6. FOLLOWING OUR PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION, THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR INFORMED FOURIE OF THE TRIP BY AMBASSADOR MCHENRY AND DONALD JUNIOR TO LUANDA. FOURIE LISTENED WITH INTEREST AND SAID THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE
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FOR MCHENRY TO ASSIST IN A MATTER THAT FOURIE HAD INTENDED TO RAISE IN ANY EVENT, NAMELY THAT THE SAG HAD RECEIVED A REPORT THAT A SOUTH AFRICAN PRISONER OF WAR IN LUANDA HAD BEEN SHOT IN COLD BLOOD BY A CERTAIN COMMANDANT VELOSSO. HE WAS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER THE REPORT WAS ACCURATE BUT WOULD WELCOME ANY INFORMATION TO INDICATE WHETHER IT WAS TRUE OR NOT. IF IT WERE TRUE, THIS WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS EMOTIONAL CONSEQUENCES HERE. THE US AMBASSADOR UNDERTOOK TO REPORT THIS TO WASHINGTON; THE FRENCH AND BRITISH AMBASSADORS SAID THEIR COMMUNICATIONS COULD IF NECESSARY BE USED TO GET A MESSAGE TO MCHENRY IN LUANDA.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WITH REFERENCE TO WALVIS BAY (PARA 2 ABOVE) FOURIE REFERRED TO THE FORMULATION WE HAD GIVEN HIM "IN WRITING" ON FEBRUARY 16. DURING THE CAPE TOWN FIVE MEETING WITH HIM ON THAT DATE, AS WE RECALL, FOURIE ASKED THAT THE PROPOSED TENTATIVE FORMULATION BE READ A SECOND TIME SO HE COULD TAKE IT DOWN. HE MAY, HOWEVER, HAD HAD REFERENCE TO THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE DOCUMENT WE HANDED HIM ON FEBRUARY 27 IN A FOLLOW UP MEETING ON CLARIFICATIONS (USUN 677; CAPE TOWN 373).
EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR03510
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780261-0096
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780630/aaaaazys.tel
Line Count: 162
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a98cbf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PRETORIA 3483
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2246679
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: PRETORIA FIVE MEETING WITH FOURIE, JUNE 22
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a98cbf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014